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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE: 25X1A

SUBJECT Registration of Former Wehrmacht Personnel;
The International Brigade.
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SUPPLEMENT

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1. The SMA in Potsdam had by the end of May 1947 begun to call up former members of the Wehrmacht for service with the Red Army. During interviews at the SMA, the registrants were asked if they were willing to serve in the Russian armed forces. It appears so far that only members of the SED have been invited to serve. Some are apparently willing to do so. The Russians show the greatest interest in engineers, tank drivers, radio operators, and signal personnel.
2. It is rumored in SED circles in Potsdam that the Russian High Command also intends to recruit Germans for an International Brigade which is to be used in Greece. One thousand marks are to be paid on entering the International Brigade; good pay and rations are promised.
3. Former German staff officers had to report to the SMA in Weimar on 24 May 1947. Each received his summons personally through the German police. They were treated with great courtesy at the komendatura, where full details of their service careers were taken down.
4. During May 1947 every able-bodied man from Luckau (A-17) who had participated in either of the World Wars was directed to register. Each first received a number and then was made to fill out a personal history sheet in the presence of a Soviet officer. The questions on the sheet were in Russian and had to be translated verbally. Details required included former rank, branch of service, and knowledge of special weapons. In the case of infantrymen, details of Sondereinsatz (special units) were required.
5. Early in June 1947 the Soviet recruitment of ex-Wehrmacht personnel was being concentrated on men with submarine experience. Those with knowledge of the "23" class U-boat were especially sought.

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